

Book Two
THE KING ARRIVES
Chapter Two
A WEDDING IN CANA

By Stephen H. Funck, January 25, 2014

ON THE WAY

It was the third day of their cousin's wedding. It was less than an hour walk to Cana¹ down the hill from Nazareth. The young men were in the lead, then came their fathers, Simon and Jude. Their wives followed with their stepmother Mary and their daughters.² The married women wore headdresses and jewelry with as many coins possible. They were carrying all the food they could. As kinfolk, they had to do all they could. They had gone home each night, every place in Cana was filled for the wedding. In addition to the entire population of Cana, family members and associates were there. Some of the folks in Cana were also pitching in.

The young men were going to look at the girls even though they were too young to marry. Alma, Jose's oldest daughter, was looking for a husband. She was wondering how to show she would be the best wife without looking vain or forward? Wearing her best, looking happy, dancing, singing and serving were all she had to impress. Talking with the other girls, she had tried to learn what they thought of those available and their families. The young men and women in the villages stayed apart and usually married outside the home village. Her father would make the arrangements. She was going to tell her mother to tell her father whom she was interested in. Weddings were matchmaking time.

The women had been busy last night and this morning preparing delicacies to bring, more than would have been normal. They were talking about what they could make for tomorrow and who might come this day. Jude and Simon talked. The situation was not good. Their uncle Isaac was very prominent, so many had come. A few months ago this looked to be a magnificent celebration. Everyone would see how well he had done. Knowing their uncle's piety, they knew he would be praising and thanking the King of Heaven for his blessings.

The family were purveyors of ritually pure stone jars for much of Galilee. Their stepmother Mary's father, Joachim³ and his brother, Isaac's father, came up from Judea to begin the trade. Joachim's step grandson, their brother Jose, was Isaac's partner now. Since they were close to the capital Tzipori - Sepphoris⁴, the richest and most powerful were customers. At least, they had been customers. The bride was from there.

This was the day the marriage vows were said. Everything had to be perfect. Unfortunately, their uncle was in no mood for celebration, his wife was angry, and the groom was numb. They hadn't seen much of the bride's family. They couldn't really take the marriage contract back. The couple's future was nothing like they had expected.

"Do you think Yeshua will make it today?" Jude asked.

Simon answered, "I was looking for him yesterday. I haven't seen him since before he went to the Jordan. I hope James⁵ will be here too. It has been a long time since we have seen him."

"Mother Mary said Yeshua looked thin when she saw him in Capernaum. He had some who followed him, disciples."

"I can't imagine him thin? He is powerful, worked with hammer and chisel. What kind of men would follow him?"

"Now we have two brothers well known to be close to God. They both were always eager to learn the scriptures, teachings of the elders."

"Not just words. I do not know any who are so diligent in doing, acting as a men of God."

"Have you been looking for a husband for Alma? What do you think she would like?"

"The best. I want the best for her." He paused. "What you contract for isn't what you get. It all depends on God. Look at uncle. I hope his pain now might lead to some good, some day."

"He should live so long," Jude replied.

"Alma, come here. Jude thinks I should be looking for a husband for you. Would you like that? What should I look for?"

"Father, I have been asking the other young women about who was available and what they think of them."

"Would you want me to find a merchant like our uncle? You might be rich. You might be poor? We have the land Mother Mary got from her father. I think having land is the best life, not the richest. Busy at planting and harvest. With all the building and other work around laborers can get by, but they always have to keep working and still be on the bottom."

"What are you going to offer for a dowery? Mother let me wear her gold ring and pin. Do you think I would be a good wife?"

"You are the best. The dowery is enough. Some fathers have already asked about you. I didn't feel good about them."

"The girls make all the young men sound like fools. I heard you say, better a good wife or husband than money or importance. Some men are mean. I want a husband who is nice to me and our children."

"Alma, you are as wise as my mother, Sophia. What you want, I can't make happen. Pray. Ask your mother, ask Mother Mary, to pray a husband for you."

Later when she had stepped back, he said quietly to Jude, "All the fathers are interested in is the size of the dowery. I don't feel like they are looking for a wife for their sons, more like getting an animal."

IN CANA

When she arose, Isaac's wife put her anger into grinding the grain for the morning bread. She had the servants prepare what they had for the celebration. Today they had a whole young bull to roast. Isaac spent longer than usual on the roof above in morning prayer. He was softly chanting over and over to himself. It sort

of helped. "Remember the word unto Thy servant, because Thou hast made me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, that Thy word hath quickened me. The proud have had me greatly in derision; yet have I not turned aside from Thy law. I have remembered Thine ordinances which are of old, O Lord, and have comforted myself. Burning indignation hath taken hold upon me, because of the wicked that forsake Thy law."⁶

His wife was waiting for him to come down. "Izzy, this was supposed to be the happiest day. I am ashamed to show my face outside. All because of that nephew of yours. Everyone said he was going to be a great one, the miracle child of Zachariah. Bah!"

"Woman, watch your tongue. We make the best of this. I sold everything I could, even the lower field. We may even have to go back to Judea. The times are evil. The people only serve God with their lips. Do you want me to be like them? I am going outside to make sure the young bull will be ready and look at the wedding canopy. Everything must look perfect."

When he came outside, a man was waiting for him. "Izzy, my sympathies. Such evil you had nothing to do with has fallen on you. God has brought you down to the ground. This was to be such a marvelous time."

"Sol, you never miss when someone has a marvelous time."

"Izzy, such a fine wedding celebration. You like everything properly done. Even a whole young bull for the village. All of these people, all these days, tremendous expense. My friend said you were trying to get him to deliver the wine now and you would pay him later. Most unusual."

"And your ears are quick to hear all the news."

"I heard you have been having a hard time selling those six large stone jars. Maybe, I could help you out. I could take those jars off your hands. It would cover the cost of the wine and you would have money left over. We could make a deal."

"Sol, what kind of a 'deal' would you make? They are worth 100 denarius."⁷

"I can't afford what they are worth. My money is tied up. As much as I could go is 75. For the lot."

"100 each! You are taking advantage of my distress. It is a violation of Torah."

"You always spout Torah. You are slow to be wise to the ways of life. A man must be practical to get along. Your nephew John is making a terrible smell on the Jordan. You expect God to rescue you? Messiah will deliver you? You should take what you can get now."

"Never! Never to you or your kind. You would take an orphan's last crumb and praise God for making you shrewd."

On the way out of town, Sol met Lenny. "I've got him stirred up. He should bite on 150 for the lot. They are already sold. The men who ordered them just can't take them from Izzy. We will get full price for them all."

IN THE STREET

The people talked quietly in small groups. "Well, considering everything, they are holding up pretty well." "I wonder how long the food and wine will last, cheap wine at that?" It didn't feel much like a celebration. Friends and family were coming in from the villages around

The people from Nazareth came bringing dates, figs, olives, honey cakes specially prepared for festival. The bridegroom saw them and thanked them, trying to put on a good front.

Mary talked with him on the side. He was distraught, "Worst day of my life. Nothing to look forward to. Terrible omen. The marriage will be a disaster."

"I am praying for you, your bride, your mother, father. Have hope, peace."

"It's all because our cousin said terrible things about the King. None of the rich will have anything to do with us. They ordered those enormous jars. Now they won't take them. No one else can afford them. We are ruined."

"God promises. Trust Him. I pray you soon see His plans are good. Now let me straighten up your wedding crown, relax. You have a good wife. Enjoy the blessing God is giving you. Praise and thank Him and look forward to more blessings to come."

Mary went in the house to see Isaac. It was the largest, most prosperous home in Cana. They even had servants. It was gloomy inside, too quiet for a wedding day.

"Oy vey, terrible, I am a broken man, the money lenders own me. The people who ordered those great jars backed out. How did they know we are kin to a prophet in the wilderness of Judea?"

Mary sang a psalm chant to him softly: "Confirm Thy word unto Thy servant, which pertaineth unto the fear of Thee. Turn away my reproach which I dread; for Thine ordinances are good. Behold, I have longed after Thy precepts; quicken me in Thy righteousness."⁸

"When you pray, it feels like God listens. Pray for us. Pray for my wife and son."

"I have been keeping you all in my prayers, and the bride too. I pray, you will see them blest."

THE VISITOR FROM JUDEA

Simon noticed a young man standing by the stone jars. He looked out of place. "You look new here. What brings you to the wedding?"

"Jose told me I should stay. I just brought up the last of those 6 stone jars.⁹ They are the largest we ever make. It took almost two weeks to get them here. As long as it takes to carve them."

"There never has been any that large in Galilee before."

"They are rare in Jerusalem. They cost too much. I think the only reason the rich buy them is to show off. Never met a rich man who seemed to really believe. All their piety is for show."

"So you know the rich in Jerusalem?"

"Rich. High priests. Sadducees. I've been around. The Pharisees are no different. I was tired of it all. I asked to be allowed to deliver this last jar to get away."

"So what do you do?"

"I carve stone. The work is good. To take a piece of stone and give it beautiful shape."

"So if you like the work and there is lots of it, why leave?"

"You know for how many years these pure stone jars have been around?"

"Never thought about it. Isaac's father began the business in Galilee."

"If they are so important for faithful sons of Abraham, how come Moses, Aaron, David, Elijah and the rest never had any? We have to be faithful to the faith by inventing new things that never were. The pious run around showing off that they are more pious than the other fellow. They are more zealous about studying and understanding the Torah and Prophets. They memorize it perfectly."

"Well, it is good to hear, obey God's word. The Psalms again and again encourage us to meditate on His word and obey His commandments. We are to long after His precepts."

"I am comforted by His promises. God's Word is not like man's words. Nothing like men's arguments about who has the correct understanding of God. I used to love listening to the great scholars talk about God. I had been caught up in it. I noticed it was making me proud. I am a good stone carver. The best. Should I look down on others? There is a difference in doing well and conceit. The Greeks call it hubris. It challenges the gods and insults them. I don't believe the Greek gods, but the Greeks are right about some things."

Simon commented, "You sound like you would make a scholar yourself."

"Just because I carve stone doesn't mean I don't think or understand."

"My little brother is like that. He should be coming. I think you will like him."

"Now the rage is the messiah coming. He needs to come here. They say he will bring grapes so huge a man can carry only one¹⁰. The size of one of those great jars. Overflowing wine for everyone."

"Don't you think messiah will come?"

"For all I know he is here now. No one recognizes him."

"What do you mean?"

"Scholars are all about their ideas. I don't think they are God's ideas. That prophet John is baptizing by Jordan. Scholars go, check him out. Criticize. He is doing it all wrong. He is calling them to repent, the nerve!!! God does "new things". Did God ever do things your way?"

Well, I have prayed for many things. Sometimes." Pause. "He is always right. We just don't understand."

"Where did John come from? I've heard stories but either they don't know, don't care, or want to forget. Some sort of miracle child? Why would that be ignored?"

Simon said, "That I know. His foster father is my uncle Clopas.¹¹ He is a miracle child - everyone knew it - and wished they did not."

"God does a miracle in front of all the people and they closed their eyes. See what I mean, the Messiah could be here and no one would see."

"John's father was a priest very old, childless. His turn came to burn incense for the morning worship at the Temple. While he was inside an angel appeared to him, told him he would have a son, he did not believe the angel, for punishment he was unable to speak until after the child was born. The people outside were wondering why the priest wasn't coming back out. He wasn't able to say the blessing, just waved his arms. Looking frightened. Some thought he had a stroke. What is your name?"

“Joseph Barsabbas.”¹²

“I am Simon Barjoseph. May The King of Heaven always be with you. Shalom. I would like to talk with you more.”

Mary later said to Simon, “Son, I pray God leads you to a way to bring His joy here today.” Simon talked with Jude. They decided to ask the women from Nazareth to begin the singing. Their sisters, Mary, Salome, should get the villages they are now in to participate. There will be singing and dancing, a contest between the villages.

Jose, as Isaac’s partner, was the master of the wedding. He introduced the women from Nazareth as the first to sing. Most of them sang together as part of the synagog worship. Mary’s mother Anne began the group when she moved from Tzippori. Women in her family had been singers in the Temple before the “scholars” replaced them with boys.

While they were singing, Jude saw Yeshua with his followers come in and brought them to Simon. Yeshua had a white robe¹³. “Simon, I heard them call him ‘Master’.” Yeshua and Simon embraced and he introduced the followers to him. (James, John, Andrew, Simon, Nathaniel, Phillip). Some of their wives and children came along. They also had two donkeys with baskets of fish and Mattias.¹⁴ He was one of those hired to replace James and John when they left fishing for their father to follow Yeshua.

Simon greeted him saying, “Little brother - You do look different. Your face. You have changed. Perhaps I shouldn’t call you ‘little brother’ any more.”

Simon, the follower, broke in, talking rapidly to the brother Simon. “I had gone to follow the new prophet on the Jordan, when the Master came. The prophet John told me to follow the Master instead. He called him ‘The Lamb of God’. Then the Master fasted in the wilderness, and I went back to Capernaum¹⁵. The Master found us there and called us to follow him. He has been proclaiming, the time is fulfilled, the Kingdom of God is at hand. He has healed the sick and cast our demons Everyone has been praising God. The King of Heaven is bringing judgment on the evil and salvation to His people.”

“I am impressed. I am glad you are here and can meet our family. We would like to learn more.”

“Your mother made this beautiful robe for the Master. There is nothing made like it, without a seam. It hung on him at first, because of his fasting, but we have been fattening him up. It makes him stand out in the people’s eyes.”

Simon’s brother Andrew apologized, saying, “I beg your patience. My brother is always talking.”

“That is fine. Come. I will introduce you to his mother and the rest of the family. His mother, our Mother Mary, has been waiting for him.”

After the women from Nazareth sang, Jose called on other villages to come forward, but even with his brothers’ and sisters’ encouragement, no one would sing. Meanwhile, Simon introduced Yeshua’s followers to the family. They were amazed at what they heard from them. They had been hearing rumors coming up from around the Lake of Galilee. It was something else to hear those stories first hand. Yeshua and his mother went off by themselves to talk. Then she said a word to the servants. Yeshua went off out of sight.

SERVANTS

“It sounds like such a little request, fill the jars with water up to the brim. How can we complain?”

“Stupid!”

“We have work to do. The bull has to be killed, cut up and passed around to cook.”

“The others will do that. Hope they do the clean up too. One dead bull makes a lot of mess.”

“How many trips to the well do you think it will take to fill those jars?”

“I could care less. All of them.”

“Isaac was fortunate to have gotten the bull when he did. Everyone should be happy to eat. Maybe they will forget there isn’t any wine.”

Meanwhile the others were taking care of the bull on the other side of the village away from the well. The crowd was watching with anticipation. It wasn’t very often that they got their fill of beef and that was usually from an old cow that was hard to eat. No one noticed the two servants were missing. The jars were out of sight. Some of the meat was passed out in smaller pieces to cook at home. The rest was going to be roasted over a fire, smelling wonderful.

“Done. Go tell Yeshua. What will he want next?”

OUTSIDE CANA

Sol waited. “Lenny what is going on? All of a sudden there is singing, sounds like dancing. The village came alive.”

“I was waiting to get near Izzy when he was by himself. They were all watching the bull get cut up. People were muttering at least they would get something to eat. The wine had run out. It was cheap wine at that. Bad omen, showing God had turned His back on Izzy and the wedding. Then a murmur came through the crowd. There was good wine and lots of it.”

“How did that happen?”

“I didn’t see it. Some were saying Izzy’s nephew, that son of Mary, turned water in those six stone jars into wine. I don’t like magic tricks. Izzy will never sell those jars now. I left.”

THE BRIDAL PARTY ARRIVES

The bridal party were later than expected. People were beginning to talk. Their friends from Tiberias¹⁶ had already been there for a while. That was a lot further. Tzippori was just as close as Nazareth. They really didn’t feel like coming at all. Fewer people from Tzippori than had been expected. Everyone who could invent some excuse had done so. The bride’s mother and father had been arguing on the way.

“You said he would be such a good match for our daughter, rich, successful. How much did you waste on the dowery?”

“We can’t get out of the wedding contract. It doesn’t make any difference now. She will have to do the best she can.”

“Why didn’t you get a rich scholar for her? Then I could hold my head up.”

“Wife of a scholar isn’t so great, except for the looks of it.”

“Someone who had land. There is reason why rich merchants rank under poor farmers. The land is always there.”

“Merchants can be rich one year and lose it all the next. Maybe they will be rich again next year.”

“She can leave him and come back with the dowery.”

“If she leaves, I can’t get the dowery back. How do you find a husband for used goods? Worthless arguing over foolish matters. The real problem is the Tetrarch Herod Antipas¹⁷ and Herodias¹⁸. It is going to be very hard to turn their suspicion aside. We are in danger. I have to keep reminding them I didn’t know anything about that prophet. I wish I could say -.”

The bridal party were all dressed in their finest. The women wore all their jewelry. The bride had a beautiful crown. They were quiet and looked puzzled at the singing and dancing. Simon met them and welcomed them. He knew they were trying to figure out what was going on.

“Wonderful news. God has showered His blessings upon us. I know you know how difficult it has been for Isaac. There was not even enough wine, not even good wine. God has provided the wine, overflowing, the best wine. He is smiling upon you The marriage is blessed by God.”

The bride’s father asked, “What do you mean? How can the Lord of Heaven provide wine here?”

“All I know is those 6 enormous jars are filled to the brim with the best of wine. I know everything will turn out wonderful.”

The bridal party looked around at each other, shrugging shoulders, eyes wide, shaking heads. Smiles were peeping out, giggles, amazement.

Simon lead the bridal parade to the center of the village and formally introduced them to the groom’s family. The greetings had a tone of puzzlement. They had been expecting dark clouds and were still wondering.

“Alexander Bar Ezekias, peace be upon you and peace upon your house. It is good when God smiles. He has blessed the marriage of my son and your daughter. Let us rejoice and celebrate the best of it.”

“Isaac, may peace be upon you and your house. I hear the Lord of Heaven has smiled upon you this day. Good.”

Then Jose led them all in a parade through every lane in Cana.¹⁹ They had to show the bride off to everyone. They were clapping their hands, crying out. Her attendants were showing off her trousseau. She was the third daughter of the Tetrarch’s official over the district from Tzippori to Tiberias. It was a fitting marriage for both families. Isaac pulled Jose to the side and asked him where the wine came from. All Jose knew was the servant brought it from those stone jars. Isaac shook his head, scowled. “Jose for the blessings, I don’t want that son of Mary to speak. Everything here will go back to Herod. Alexander has the leaders of Tzippori, Nain and

Nazareth, and heads of those synagogues and the Tiberias synagogue here. Ask some to give blessings. I just want the leader of our synagogue and - - your brother Simon."

"It will be done. I understand. I was afraid Alexander, none of them, would come today."

There was a decorated square of cloth in the middle of town held up by four poles, the wedding canopy.²⁰ The parents, bride and groom stood beneath it. Jose had the fathers read the marriage contract aloud. The head of the city of Tzippori said the blessing over the wine and the leader of the synagogue of Tiberias gave the betrothal blessing. The couple tasted the wine and then the others gave their blessings. Simon was last, very uncomfortable, wondering why he was asked. He did a respectable job.

The dancing and singing began and continued and continued and continued. The wedding party danced. The bride and groom danced. The bride's mother was crowned with a wreath of flowers as her daughters danced around her. It was her last daughter to wed. They all danced around both parents, since it was their last child to wed. They danced around the bride to make her glad. The young men danced, showing off, while the older men sang and the young women were looking them over. The young women had their turn to dance next. The officials danced. Mother Mary sang and danced with the older women. Yeshua and his followers danced. The singing and dancing continued and continued with twirling and leaping, with tambourines and finger cymbals, hand clapping and flutes. Simon was proud, Alma looked very nice.

Simon was resting, sitting next to Joseph Barsabbas²¹. "Son of the Sabbath", sounds like you have been known for your piety to get that name."

"I was an orphan. Lived on the streets of Jerusalem. Ran errands, did what I could, got to know a lot of the high and mighty. Ended up cutting stone. Do you have any idea how many are working on the Temple Mount?"

"No idea. Has to be a lot."

"Eighteen thousand for the last forty years. There is a lot more to do before it is finished. If it ever is. A thousand oxen moving stones. That is where I learned to cut stone."

"You do jars now."

"I felt very close to God. I listened carefully to all the scholars. Life was good. I married, a wonderful woman. I was no longer an orphan."

"It was all turned upside down."

"She died trying to give birth. I felt God threw me from the heights of heaven to sheol. I wandered in the desert for a while. Stayed with the Essenes."

"Bitter pain changes us."

"I carve stone. I change the stone. Do you think the stone feels pain? A stone feel guilt? She died because of me, my child. It took days. Days I held her. Nothing could be done."

"Anguish. Beyond words."

"An orphan gets by by being hard, very hard. I was determined. I was going to make God in Heaven go my way. I deserved it. He owed it to me. I made Him give it all to me. The crown of all was my wife and child."

"I had the most wonderful mother. She died. We were abandoned for years."

"You know."

"But you are not like what you used to be."

"In the desert, throwing rocks at the stars, those messengers of His. He shattered my stone. All of those Psalms talk about God redeeming them from the pit. They give thanks to the God who allowed them to be thrown down. Being thrown down is normal. God rescues His people. Some live to see it."

"Wisdom comes from sorrow."

"How many years were we slaves in Egypt?"

"Four hundred."

"God finally heard their cries and sent Moses. He cared for every one over all those years. We celebrate a great God, a great victory, a great redemption. Job said he would praise God even if God killed him. The Lord Almighty is Great. He always knows. What can we do?"

"In Egypt they lived in hope. We live now in hope."

"So is Messiah coming? Why did the people want to ignore John, the miracle child?"

"Very dangerous times. King Herod was very dangerous. Shortly before some of the scholars were going around saying the messiah was coming and would overthrow the king. The idea was even passed around inside the Palace. They were killed. He had a eunuch Bagoas. The messiah was going to heal him. He would marry and have children."²²

"That is when the astrologers came. He had some children killed."

"They still remember that in Jerusalem?"

"Not well. It is ignored."

"Different story."

"Looks like it is time to eat. We still have three more days of celebration. We can talk more later."

Notes:

This is one of a series of stories that attempt to make an accurate portrayal of the culture and history of the times in which Jesus lived. Go to my web site for more. <http://thesignofconcord.com>

If the reader discovers any historical inaccuracy, please send me the corrections and evidence. Please feel free to pass it on to others. Thanks to my patient wife Lynne for repeatedly proofreading. I excel at creative spelling and punctuation. ConcordDove@mac.com Thanks to Tom Powers for editorial suggestions and critique.

This is meant for non technical readers. For them Wikipedia is a good reference. Scholars are able to find scholarly references for the following footnotes.

There are several traditional locations for Cana and possible relationships between Jesus and his “brothers”. I used the earliest traditions. The relationships of the people of the wedding is my own.

When wine was served, it was cut 1 part wine to 4 parts water. So the total amount to drink was close to 1000 gallons. There was enough alcohol to kill the germs in the water and make it safe to drink.

For a Messianic Jewish commentary on the Wedding at Cana see Messiah Journal from the First Fruits of Zion http://ffoz.org/messiahonline/articles/the_life_of_messiah/life_of_the_party.php

Questions. These are questions that were in my mind that I attempted to answer as I was writing.

Why did Mary have authority to act at the wedding?

How could the master of ceremonies not know where the wine was from?

Why were the six jars there? What did that entail?

What were weddings like in that culture?

How does this fit in with the expectations of the people for the Messiah?

¹ For Cana <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cana> Wiki Marriage at Cana

² For the family of Jesus see <http://katachriston.wordpress.com/2011/06/07/richard-j-bauckham-on-the-relatives-of-jesus/>

³ Joachim is described in the [Protoevangelium of James](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joachim) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joachim>

⁴ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tzipori>

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_the_Just

⁶ Psalm 119:49-53 JPS Jewish Publication Society of America 1917 Version at www.archive.org/details/holyscripturesac028077mbp.

⁷ The actual value of the very large stone jars, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece, is unknown but they were very expensive. Stone jars were normally small.

⁸ Psalm 119:38-40 JPS

⁹ Large stone jars <http://dqhall59.com/israelphotosIV/stonewaterjars.htm>

¹⁰ “In the world to come a man will bring one grape on a wagon or a ship, put it in a corner of his house and use its contents as if it was a large wine cask ... There will be no grape that will not contain thirty kegs of wine, for as it is said in the Scriptures [in Deuteronomy 32:14], ‘You drank the foaming blood of the grape’.” (b.Ketubot 111b) “The days will come in which vines shall grow ... and on every one of the clusters ten thousand grapes, and every grape when pressed will give five-and-twenty measures of wine.” (Fragments of Papias 4)

¹¹ <http://katachriston.wordpress.com/2011/06/07/richard-j-bauckham-on-the-relatives-of-jesus/>

¹² Acts 1:23

¹³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_clothing http://www.chabad.org/holidays/JewishNewYear/template_cdo/aid/4829/jewish/Wearing-White.htm <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kittel> see Head coverings in ancient Israelite culture in <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kippah>

¹⁴ Acts 1:23 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Matthias

¹⁵ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capernaum>

¹⁶ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberias>

¹⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herod_Antipas

¹⁸ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herodias>

¹⁹ <http://blog.bibleplaces.com/2010/01/wedding-procession.html>

²⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_wedding <http://www.jewishweddingnetwork.com/jewish-wedding-traditions>

²¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_of_Barsabas

²² Josephus The Antiquities of the Jews 17:2.4 <http://www.biblestudytools.com/history/flavius-josephus/antiquities-jews/>